



DURHAM UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF CHANGE RINGERS

EST. 1959

Durham University Society of Change Ringers AGM

Sunday 3th December 2017

Kenworthy Hall, St Marys College, Durham

Opened at: 1142

Agenda

Present

Oliver Rice – chairing meeting	Paul
Izzy Seale – taking minutes	Katherine Stonham
Rachael Sanderson	Izabelle Bimson
Natasha Kozlowski	Frances Haynes
Elizabeth Hopper	Roy Meads
Joseph Walker	Brian Sparling
Alice Blackwell	Richard Bimson
Michael Anderson	Kate Nye
Fred Bone	Jo Franklin
Phill Rogers	Nigel Gale
Gwen Rogers	Astrid Gale
Alex Pynn	Rachel Wells
Josiphine Criddle	Maia Jorysz
Rob Criddle	Ian Jorysz
Michael Williams	Mary Bone (non-member)

1. Apologies for absence

Denis Enison

Stephen Lloyd

James Watkins

Jeff Ladd

2. Approval of the minutes from the previous AGM

Taken as read and approved on a general aye

3. Officers' reports

a. Master – Rachael Sanderson

Regular practices including a wide variety including Rounds and Calls, Bob Doubles, Cambridge and Norwich. This year we are very grateful to be supported by Jean and Keith from the Cathedral, who really help to expand the experience of the band.

Four Tours this year- treasurers tour to Ripon, Summer tour to Nottingham, a few members joined the Shincliffe tour and finally the dinner day tour to Darlington. Great opportunity to try new towers.

Driven recruitment quite well. Article in the ringing world about the kind of things we do, fresher fair and hosted the miniring outside the DSU. Approximately 6-8 new ringers, and we are having weekly beginners' practices before usual session. We have also had additional sessions for more experienced ringers to develop other skills, such as learning how to teach and how to call, the latter leading to a quarter.

Maintained ringing outside of DUSCR/ Brancepeth- members regularly attend practice at St Oswalds and the Cathedral, as well as having DUSCR focused sessions at the Cathedral to develop that opportunity.

Finally, entered ourselves for the University society ART award and were successful! Money is being put towards more tools for teaching to help us continue to improve

Overall: bells were rung, fun was had by all. Huge thank you to the exec, especially Elizabeth who has been bombarded with questions throughout the year.

b. Life members' secretary – Kate Nye

This was another successful year. This year the peal weekend was in Derbyshire. The tour to Salford, which Maria and Ian organised, was well attended. Congratulations to the DUSCR marriages and births this year. Next years tour will be to Ipswich, details to follow in the email.

c. Peal recorder - Fred Bone

Two peals since last Dinner Day, so the Society's total now stands at 240 peals including 21 on hand bells.

The leading peal ringers list is still headed by Phill Rogers. The only change among the top ten peal ringers is that Robert Chadburn has caught up with Matt Durham.

Phill Rogers is also the leading conductor by quite a long way. Matt Durham is now joint second with Jeff Ladd.

d. Central Council representative – Jeff Ladd

The main focus of this year's Central Council meeting was on the proposals brought forward by the group for Council reform (CRAG). There had been a feeling for many years that the Council was unwieldy, remote and irrelevant. In 2016, CRAG was set up to address this issue and suggest how the Council could be rendered leaner, fitter and more effective.

The details of the CRAG proposals are well-documented elsewhere, including on the revamped CCCBR website. There was a significant body of opinion in the room that there had not been enough time for grassroots consultation and an amendment was proposed which would have seen matters being left solely in the hands of the current officers for another year. I voted against this amendment. I felt that a month was long enough for anyone who was sufficiently interested to relay their thoughts to their rep. Furthermore, my feeling that the vast majority of ringers weren't sufficiently interested was evidenced by the fact that my seeking of views from DUSCR members by email and Facebook drew only two responses.

Opposition to the CRAG proposals was unexpectedly muted. The proposals were well-presented, and there was clearly strong support for them. I voted in favour, having noted the reservations expressed by one of the two members who had responded to me.

Elsewhere, I voted in favour of an increase in the CCCBR membership fee from £30 to £40 p.a., in favour of winding up the Bells Rescue Fund (which had become dormant), and in favour of extending the terms of reference of the Methods Committee. There was then a motion comprising five proposals from the Methods Committee. Briefly these were:

1. To reclassify methods which are false in the plain course as 'methods' rather than 'blocks'.
2. To remove the requirement that peals be audible outside the tower.
3. To allow peals on simulated tower and hand bells.
4. To relax slightly the requirements that errors during the ringing of a peal be corrected immediately.
5. To allow a wider range of peal lengths and compositions in Triples and below.

Fred Bone of DUSCR, but representing the Essex Association, proposed that the fourth of these be deleted. Fred had previously expressed his concerns to me, but I nevertheless voted against deletion because my experience over many years of peal ringing has been that the proposal, more accurately than the old regulation, reflected common practice.

The meeting overwhelmingly declined to vote on the five proposals separately. I voted, with the majority, for the motion.

The next meeting will be on the last weekend of May, 2018 in Lancaster. At that meeting, the rule changes necessary for the full implementation of the CRAG proposals will be voted upon. Do let me have your views so that I can vote accordingly. The Central Council has come in for a lot of stick in recent years, and has been dismissed as an irrelevance by many. My own view is that ringing needs a global point of reference and certainly benefits from the many services the Council provides. You might not notice the Council in your everyday ringing, but you would start to notice if it wasn't there. Public relations, safeguarding, ringing records, biographies, bell restoration, tower stewardship, Dove, the Ringing World, compositions and methods all come under its remit. CRAG is the Council's attempt to acknowledge you, to communicate effectively with you, and to make itself more useful to you. I believe the Council deserves our support.

I have not volunteered to serve on any of the Council's workgroups. This is not just because I now live in France for several months of the year, but principally because I believe that the areas in which I have a particular interest are already well-served by members with a far greater expertise than my own. Members might like to note that, under the CRAG proposals, there is no requirement for a ringer to be a member of the Council to become involved in its work as a Workgroup member.

I found representing the Society in Edinburgh to be an interesting and enjoyable experience. I am pleased to have the honour to continue as your representative for the next two years and look forward to receiving any views which you would like me to put forward.

4. Question of the officers

Mary Bone (secretary of CC): the system of three year terms of office for central council representative will change to one year terms if the proposed rules change in May. This will mean more paperwork.

5. Election of officers

a. Life members' secretary

Katherine Stonham and Kate Nye nominated by Richard Dimpson, seconded by Robert Criddle, and duly elected on a general aye.

b. Peal recorder

Fred Bone nominated by Kate Nye, seconded by Michael Williams, and duly elected on a general aye.

6. Any other business

It was raised that two years from now will be DUSCR's 60th anniversary and that year the first Sunday in December will be the 7th. Please could we decide which weekend the dinner will take, and make a decision sooner rather than later so that the venue will be available. To which Rachael Sanderson replied that we must think about which weekend is best for the social secretary to organise keeping in mind university work load.

Joseph Walker current webmaster wanted to update on work done on the website in the last year:

- News section added onto the front page
- General structure of the site changed
- The old site has been repaired so it's now accessible through the new website
- Added a random quotes generator like the one in the old site

I would also like to update the life members webpages, since it's been neglected in the last few years. If any one has any tour information for the last few years or long ago just let me know. In particular if anyone has a picture from the September tour can they send it on to me.

If anyone has any other comments or suggestions just get in contact with me.

Lastly will look into the AGM minutes from the last few years that have gone astray.

Jeff sends a report

It's now just over two years since Jeff, along with the PCC of St George's Anglican Church, Vernet-les-Bains, began work on a project to install France's first ring of change-ringing bells. Initial discussions with the Commune, who own the building, resulted in permission to go ahead with tower inspections by structural engineer Adrian Dempster and by Mike Semken of Taylor's.

Those inspections led to the current proposal: Taylor's are to install a light, ground-floor ring of 10, at a cost which looks like coming in around the £100k mark. The Keltek

Trust has identified, and Taylor's have approved, two bells which will form part of the ring. Our tenor, donated by Keltek, will be a 1953 Gillett and Johnston bell, 5-2-22 in C, which was cast as the 2nd of a mixed collection of six bells at Goran in Cornwall. Our 8th will be a 1963 Taylor bell which hung singly at St Chad's Church in Pheasey, near Walsall in the West Midlands. This latter bell will have its tuning adjusted to match the tenor, and eight new bells will be cast. Both Keltek bells are in storage at Loughborough.

In October 2017, the project was put to the Conseil Municipal in Vernet for formal approval, which it gained, nem con. That formal agreement now has to be translated into a binding contract between the PCC and the Mairie. The Mayor intends making the project fully public in Vernet in his big annual speech at the end of January. Hopefully, with the legal work done, we will not be too far behind that date in launching the project in the UK and beginning our fund-raising in earnest. Around £20k has already been promised. Jeff will update the Society through the usual channels when the project is publicly launched and, in the meantime, would like to thank those DUSCR members who have already offered to support the project financially.

Next year's dinner will be on Saturday 1st December 2018

Closed at: 1206